Andrew March

Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra

1/1/2012

Summary-

After they arrived at the inn, Don Quixote went to rest as the others sat to eat, and share stories of how mad Don Quixote is. Sancho leaves before this to check on his master, as he idolizes Don Quixote and would not let them talk about him like that. The Barber and Curate said that this was all due to books of chivalry. The others could not believe this, for they had read these books and enjoyed them very much. The innkeeper said that he had some with him even, and the Curate asked him to get them. After looking over the three books, he wished to burn the two, which were fiction. However, he figured that the non-fiction was fine, as it would not corrupt minds. However, there was another story present that was written on parchment, and the Curate wished the innkeeper to read it so he did.

The story was of two friends. The one friend had just got married to a beautiful woman and he wanted to make sure that she was loyal and faithful. Thus, he asked his friend to test her by wooing her into making love with him. The friend deplored this thought, and said that it would be much better just to trust her. After much persuading however, he said that he would do it. For several nights, he came to his married friend’s house, and the husband would find excuses to leave the two alone. He would tell his friend that his wife had resisted all of his urges to woe and seduce her. However, he had not at all even talked to her yet. The final night they planned to woe her, the husband decided to hide behind a door and watch what would transpire. At the end of the night, he called to his friend and he said that his wife was once again steadfast in the love for her husband. The husband said that they had not even talked, so he left for several days and told him to go through with the plan this time. The friend did as he asked. The two indeed made of love, and then fell in love but they decided they would keep it a secret. Shortly after the husband returned, the two ran off to be together. The husband that was betrayed died of loneliness. The other friend died in a war and his lover died shortly after due to her heartache.

When the story concluded the innkeeper saw several people making their way to the inn. They then entered the inn, two of them with veils over their faces. Sancho came running down the stairs saying that his master had done it. They all ran upstairs to investigate about what Sancho was talking. Don Quixote was asleep, standing on his bed, and swing a sword. At the head of the bed there was a slashed wine skin, and on the floor a large pool of red wine. The innkeeper quickly stopped Don Quixote from what he was doing, in a rather violent manner. Sancho said that his master had killed the giant, sliced his head right off and the blood had poured all over. The others, very much amused said that all he had done was to cut the wine skins and red wine came spilling out, not the blood of a giant. Sancho was dismayed, as he wanted this journey to be over so he returns to his family. Attention was then directed to the new travelers. The veil had fallen off the woman, the man restrained her and she screamed. At this, Cardenio new it to be his stolen love Luscinda. The man then took off his veil; Dorothea was just as surprised to see Don Fernando, her run away love underneath. They then all embraced and then returned downstairs.

Don Quixote returned downstairs shortly afterward. He also proclaimed that he had slain the giant, but the company set the record straight for him. He then told a tale of wisdom and metaphor, and of how one should live. They were all very surprised at this because he usually speaks of nonsense. After his story concluded, two more travelers entered the inn. One was a man in Moorish clothing and the other a Moorish woman. They then told their story of how they had come to this place. The man was Spanish but was held captive for many years in Algiers. This woman saw him and fell in love with him. She wished to return to Spain with him, as she wished to become a Christian. She then decided to help to free him so he could aid her back to Spain. The captive, once freed, help to take the woman from her home and aboard their ship to Spain. They did make it back to Spain but with a lot of trouble I the way. They then made their way to this inn, in search of his father and brothers.

Analysis-

I liked this section of the book. It really showed the development of the characters and as a collective group at the inn. This portion of the book also had some really well written sub stories. In addition, I liked the all the humor that appeared in this section. I did not like however, the fact that it took three chapters to tell what happened in a backstory and occasionally a story that is not even relative to the rest of the novel. Those parts, though good, seemed to drag on. I just wanted to know what was actually happening in the present. I also found it cool that the story of the captive was relatable to Odysseus’ journey in *The Odyssey* so it was very neat to compare and contrast the two journeys.

Application-

The predominate theme in this portion of my reading, just as the last time was love. It showed two viewpoints in fact. It showed that love could come full circle an actually work out as it did for the couples of Cardenio & Luscinda, Dorothea & Don Fernando, and the captive & his new love. The captive and his love were a wonderful example as it showed that love could overcome all challenges if it is strong enough. The book also showed how sometimes love is not meant to work as told by the story of the two friends. Cynicism was also showed in this section as it was in earlier chapters. When the Curate suggested the innkeeper’s books be burnt, he replied that he would rather have his daughter burnt then the books. This was also shown when Don Quixote delivered such prophetic and insightful story even though he apparently had a mind that was corrupted by books of chivalry.